

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Volume 3 ♦ Issue 2 ♦ January 9, 2022

IT WAS WITH A LOUD VOICE...

Larry R. Ping II

There are a lot of loud voices in the world these days. The use of a loud voice could mean different things. Such was the case in the Bible. Did you know it was with a loud voice...

1) Potiphar's Wife Lied. Once Joseph had finally and forever shunned the forwardness of Potiphar's wife, she said, “*See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out*” (Gen. 39:14-15). Some believe if they lie with a loud enough voice, it will be heard as true. The fact is, a lie is a lie whether it be silently, softly, or noisily spoken. The Bible condemns the telling of lies (Rev. 21:8; Psa. 3:8). People of God ought not to be speaking untruthfully, even if it were to be done with a loud voice. Remember, “*Provide things honest in the sight of all men*” (Rom. 12:17). Are you?

2) David Lamented The Death Of His Son. Joab delivered this terrible news to David. He “*cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son*” (II Sam. 19:4). It is reasonable for David to react in this way, even if Absalom had attempted to overthrow the kingdom. Sometimes, a loud voice indicates the severity of one's feelings. Later, David would say, “*O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son*” (II Sam. 18:33). Though it happens on occasion, it is not meant for a parents to bury their children. I have heard the loud cries of such distressed parents, and it is not pleasant. All one can do in such a situation is “*weep with them that weep*” (Rom. 12:15). Will you do your part when called?

3) Sennacherib Attempted To Generate Fear Among The Hebrews. The king of Assyria, in an effort to conquer Judah, tried to sway the Hebrew children away

from God and Hezekiah. It is reported of the king and his cohorts, “*they cried with a loud voice in the Jews' speech unto the people of Jerusalem that were on the wall, to affright them, and to trouble them; that they might take the city*” (II Chron. 32:18). Often, those who are attempting to bully or scare others will speak in loud and menacing voices. Often, it works. People of God ought not to fear such tactics. David would say, “*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid*” (Psa. 27:1)? Paul emphatically stated, “*If God be for us, who can be against us*” (Rom. 8:31). Remember friends, no matter how loudly or angrily someone else speaks to us, God is bigger and better. He always will be!

4) The Ancient Men Wept At The Sight Of The New Temple. As Ezra and his helpers had nearly finished the rebuilding of the temple, the Bible reports, “*But many of the priests and Levites and chief of*

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the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy” (Ezra 3:12). You see, the young folks had never had the opportunity to see the beauty and grandeur of the first temple. But the older men had seen it, and the rebuilt temple was no match for it. Hence, they used their loud voices to exhibit their great sadness over the recent history of their people. Their voice and concern was genuine. My fellow soldiers of Christ, it may be we have to do our fair share of loud weeping to show our displeasure of the current status of the Lord’s Church. In many places, the Word is being handled “*deceitfully*” (II Cor. 4:2) and not being “*rightly*” divided (II Tim. 2:15). This should greatly bother those who intend to “*speak as the oracles of God*” (I Pet. 4:11). Are you willing to step up with a loud voice if needed?

5) The People Of God Agreed To Obey God. As God’s people confessed their sin, they were called upon to

“make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives” (Ezra 10:11). The Bible proceeds to say, “*Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do” (Ezra 10:12).* Frequently, a loud voice is used to show extreme agreement to something, as in this case with the Hebrews. We should be glad to loudly agree to obey God’s Word, for doing so brings salvation. The New Testament reports, “*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:8-9).* Are you willing to do so?

6) Jesus Expressed The Enormous Price Of Sin.

While on the cross, Jesus offered seven statements. The Word of God chronicles, “*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me” (Matt.*

27:46)? These loud words indicate the immense price it cost to take away sin. Paul summed it up nicely by saying, “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8).* May we be ever thankful for the great sacrifice Jesus made.

7) A Samaritan Gave Thanks To The Lord Jesus.

Jesus actually healed ten lepers, but only the Samaritan returned. Luke chronicles, “*And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan” (Lk. 17:15-16).* When something is done for or given to us, our thanksgiving must be loudly heard. The Psalmist said, “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations” (Psa. 100:4-5).* Be sure others, especially God, know you are thankful!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm